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ETERNAL BLUE

tactics 3
木下さくら
Sakura Kinoshita
東山和子
Kazuko Higashiyama

tactics

Sakura Kinoshita × Kazuko Higashiyama

3

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CHAPTER 7 3

DEAR GOD—

DEAR GOD—

PLEASE LISTEN TO MY PRAYER——.

Chapter 7

tactics 3

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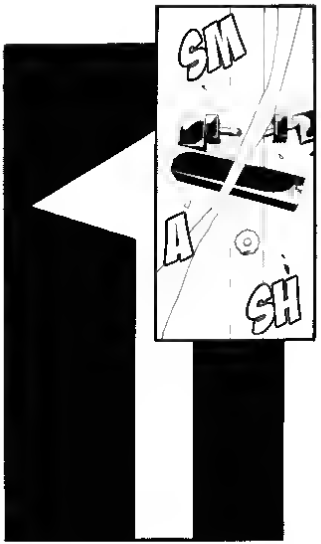
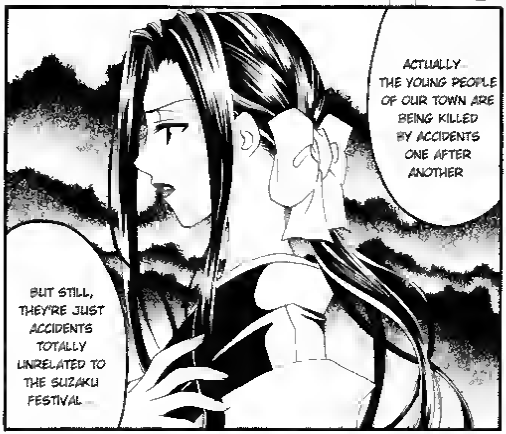

SM
A
SH

I SINCERELY THANK YOU FOR CONSULTING WITH US THROUGH THE REFERRAL OF MASTER UNHAI ABOUT THIS CASE
THOUGH I'M NOT WORTHY, I ICHINOMIYA KANTAROU SHALL DO MY BEST FOR LADY KYOKO OF SUZAKUIN
SPARKLE
MADAM, MAY I CALL YOU KYOKO-SAN?
SHY!
OH MY YOU SAID EXACTLY WHAT MASTER UNHAI SAID YOU WERE GOING TO SAY, KANTAROU-SAN
OHOHOHO

WH AT?
WHAT DID YOU HEAR FROM MASTER UNHAI ABOUT THIS MATTER?
NO DOUBT, KANTAROU WILL PESTER YOU A BIT
RICH AND BEAUTIFUL, PLUS A WIDOW
THAT FUCKING FAKE??? MONK, DESECRATING A MAN'S PURITY
THE DATE FOR THE FIVE GRAIN PROSPERITY RITUAL, THE "SUZAKU FESTIVAL" THAT THE SUZAKUIN FAMILY HERE IS IN CHARGE OF IS NEARING
AND I WAS TOLD TO AID IN THE PRIESTESS'S FORTUNE TELLING RITUAL TO BE HELD THEN
I DON'T NEED ANY HELP.

IT'S ALRIGHT. BUT WAS THERE SOME UNFORTUNATE EVENT IN THIS TOWN?
OH DEAR... MAI IT'S RUDE TO SUDDENLY SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT WITHOUT GREETING THE GUEST

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, MOTHER! THE TOWNSPEOPLE ARE UNSETTLED ABOUT WHETHER THIS YEAR'S SUZAKU FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS


ACTUALLY... THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF OUR TOWN ARE BEING KILLED BY ACCIDENTS ONE AFTER ANOTHER
BUT STILL, THEY'RE JUST ACCIDENTS TOTALLY UNRELATED TO THE SUZAKU FESTIVAL...

MAI!
BUT THAT'S BECAUSE OF THE GRUDGE HELD BY STEPFATHER, WHO RECENTLY PASSED AWAY...

HI MAI! YOU'RE THE PRIESTESS WHO'LL DO THE FORTUNE TELLING? I'M ICHINOMIYA...
NO!! I CAN'T DO ANYTHING LIKE FORTUNE TELLING AT ALL!!
AH... SORRY...
MAI, YOU... I'M SO SORRY THE FORTUNE TELLING WILL BE DONE BY HER TWIN SISTER... MAI' WEREN'T YOU TOGETHER WITH MIYABI?
I DON'T KNOW...
UH... MOTHER...
AND WE DON'T NEED ANY HELP
THAT GIRL JUST NEEDS ME THAT'S ALL

OH DEAR-- SOMETHING YOU SHOULD BE CONGRATULATED FOR

MIYABI!
WOW! REALLY IDENTICAL TO MA!
WHIS PER
WHIS PER

TO TRY TO MAKE THE SUZAKU FESTIVAL SUCCESSFUL
I'M GOING TO TRY TO ASSUAGE THE TOWNPEOPLE'S FEARS!

MIYABI HAS BECOME AN ADULT NOW
EXCUSE ME
UH
DID ANYTHING HAPPEN TO MIYABI?

MIYABI HAS

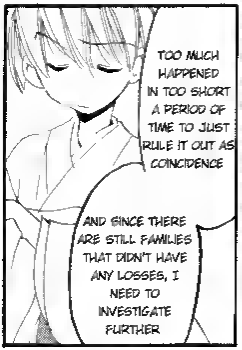
TO WHERE?
UH... MADAM SUZAKUIN, I'LL BE GOING OUT UNTIL SUPPERTIME

HARUKA!
IT'S AN UNCOMFORTABLE SITUATION FOR ME AS A MAN
YOU ALREADY FINISHED SAYING HELLO TO THE OWNER LADY?
SO ENAMORED WITH THE WOMAN....
??
HARUKA! I'M GONNA TRY MY BEEEEST!
GOING OUT?
YEAH. AFTER I MOVE IN SOME LUGGAGE.

I'LL BE BACK
UH... EXCUSE ME...
HUH?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, HARUKA-SAN
MY SON WAS PUNISHED
SHUT UP
OY— WHAT IS IT? WHAT—? WHAT THE HELL DID YOU DO HARUKA—?

HE SAID HE NEEDED TO LOOK AFTER HIS FUTURE AND APPROACHED THAT KIND MISS MIYABI
BUT I DIDN'T THINK HE'D DIE LIKE THIS.....
HE WAS BITTEN BY A SNAKE FOR THE SIN OF LUSTING AFTER THE RICH LADY.
FRIGHT
PUNISHED?
OTHER MEN WHO TRIED TO INTRUDE ON THE SUZAKU HOUSEHOLD WERE ALL ATTACKED BY WOLVES OR GET HIT BY A FALLING TREE
OR GET EATEN BY SOME OTHER UNKNOWN ANIMALS
LADY KYOKO IS SO BEAUTIFUL... AND THE PREVIOUS GENERATION'S GRUDGES RUN DEEP.

IF THINGS CONTINUE LIKE THIS I'M WORRIED IF THE SUZAKU FESTIVAL CAN BE SAFELY HELD
WHETHER THOSE ACCIDENTAL DEATHS ARE RESULTS OF A GRUDGE OR GOD'S PUNISHMENT
GRANDMA.
THAT'S WHAT I'M HERE FOR. TO DISCOVER THE TRUTH.
SO? WHAT HAPPENED--- DID YOU FIND ANYTHING OUT?
...NO.

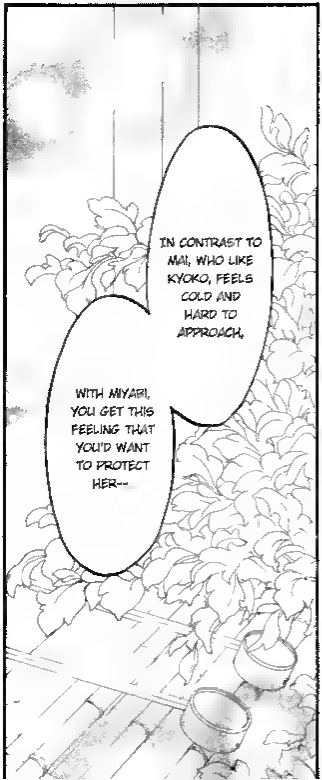

TOO MUCH HAPPENED IN TOO SHORT A PERIOD OF TIME TO JUST RULE IT OUT AS COINCIDENCE
AND SINCE THERE ARE STILL FAMILIES THAT DIDN'T HAVE ANY LOSSES, I NEED TO INVESTIGATE FURTHER

CAN'T FIGURE OUT ANYTHING YET. NOW IT'S ALMOST TO A POINT THAT I FEEL APOLOGETIC TO EVEN BE HERE
SINCE YOU HAVE OUTSIDE MOTIVES.
AHH... I THOUGHT SO

AREN'T YOU THE GUESTS IN THE SUZAKUIN HOUSEHOLD?

THESE ARE STRAWBERRY CANDIES THAT MISS MIYABI LIKES.
CAN YOU TAKE THEM TO HER?

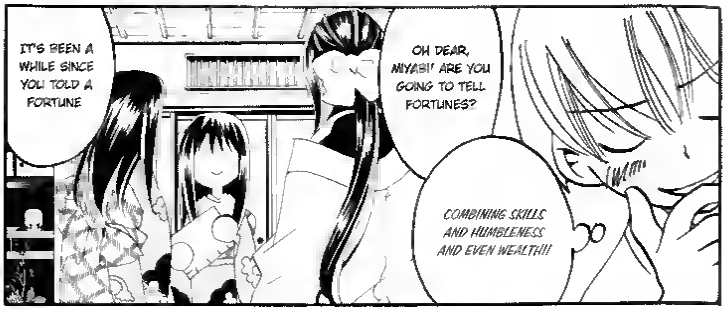
HEHHH... MIYABI LIKES STRAWBERRIES, HUH. SHE RESEMBLES WHAT SHE LIKES.

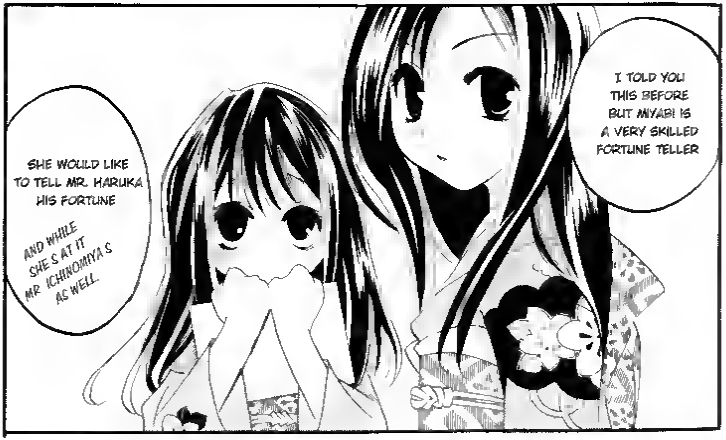

IN CONTRAST TO MAI, WHO LIKE KYOKO, FEELS COLD AND HARD TO APPROACH,
WITH MIYABI, YOU GET THIS FEELING THAT YOU'D WANT TO PROTECT HER--

SISTERS THAT THE TERM TWINS FITS MOST APPROPRIATELY...
IF MAI IS YIN, THEN MIYABI IS YANG. THEY ONLY BECOME ONE WHEN THE BOTH ARE TOGETHER.
WHATEVER THEY DO, THE TWO ALWAYS DO IT TOGETHER.
AH, IT'S MAI AND MIYABI.
HUNGRY
NEE-SAMA, SORRY
IF YOU REALIZE IT THEN IT'S OKAY MIYABI

REALLY... THOSE SISTERS ARE LIKE A WORK OF ART
...
THEY DON'T LOOK LIKE THEY'LL DO ANYTHING BAD....
ANYTHING BAD?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
TALALA

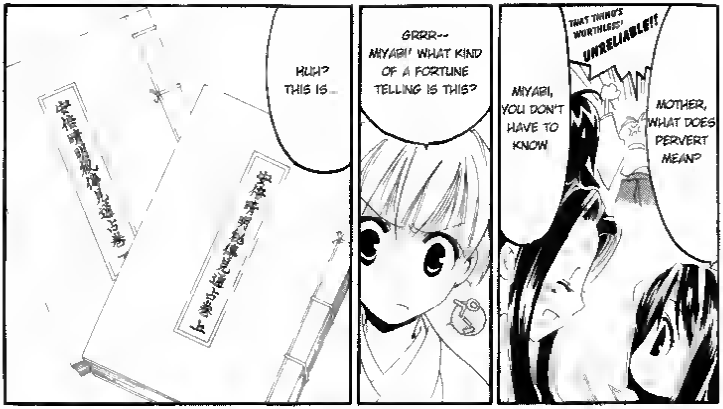
WOW-- AMAZING.
TO RECEIVE SUCH HOSPITALITY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY
NO SIR
MY SKILLS ARE STILL LACKING


IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU TOLD A FORTUNE
OH DEAR, MIYABI! ARE YOU GOING TO TELL FORTUNES?
COMBINING SKILLS AND HUMBLENESS AND EVEN WEALTH!!!


I TOLD YOU THIS BEFORE BUT MIYABI IS A VERY SKILLED FORTUNE TELLER
SHE WOULD LIKE TO TELL MR. HARUKA HIS FORTUNE
AND WHILE SHE'S AT IT MR. ICHINOMIYA'S AS WELL

WHILE SHE'S AT IT...?
TODAY IS THE DAY OF THE DRAGON...
SINCE MR. HARUKA CAME FROM THE SOUTHWESTERN DIRECTION.

CLEARLY, I DON'T DISLIKE FIGHTING.
BUT I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT THE LAST PART SAYS.
IT SAYS THAT YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON INSIDE
ALTHOUGH YOU ENJOY MARTIAL ARTS AND LIKE TO FIGHT...
MIYABI~~ HOW ABOUT ME?
AAAAHH~
ASHAMED...
EEEK
MR HARUKA IS A NICE PERSON!!
IT'S EXACTLY CORRECT!
EMPHASIS
HAS AN ANGEL OF DEATH AND A THIEF INSIDE HIS BODY.
SO IT SAYS
A LIAR AND A PERVERT.
HMMM.
MR KANTARO IS...


HUH? THIS IS...
GRRR-- MIYABI! WHAT KIND OF A FORTUNE TELLING IS THIS?
MIYABI, YOU DON'T HAVE TO KNOW
THAT THING'S WORTHLESS! UNRELIABLE!!
MOTHER, WHAT DOES PERVERT MEAN?

IT'S YIN-YANG RELIGION.

IT FLOURISHED UNDER HEIAN RULE BUT DURING THE MEIJI GOVERNMENT THE YING-YANG RELIGION WAS ABOLISHED AS A PART OF THE SHINTO-BUDDHIST SEPERATION POLICY
THE YING-YANG RELIGION THAT HAS IN ITS CENTER THE ANCIENT ASTRONOMICAL SKILLS AND YING-YANG PENTALINEAR THEORIES...

THE SUZAKUIN HOUSEHOLD IS A HEAD FAMILY IN THE YING-YANG BELIEVERS...
A HOUSEHOLD THAT HAD INHERITED THE TRADITION OF THE TOOMIN HOUSEHOLD
IT DID NOT AFFECT CIVILIAN YING-YANG BELIEVERS ALL THAT MUCH.
BUT THE ONLY THING GONE WAS THE OFFICIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE RELATIONSHIP
THE FACT THAT THIS BOOK IS HERE MEANS...
A
COUGH
COUGH
MIYABI!?
THAT WILL INFLUENCE THE LIVES OF THE TOWNSPEOPLE
THIS CHILD'S FORTUNE TELLING IN THE SUZAKU FESTIVAL IS A HIGHLY IMPORTANT RITE
SIP
SIP

MIYABI! WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
I'M... I'M ALRIGHT. THE WATER JUST WENT IN THE WRONG WAY
ARE YOU SICK? TRY TAKING SOME DEEP BREATHS.
...
FOR SOME REASON, IT SEEMS LIKE MIYABI IS BEING OVER PROTECTED A LITTLE
HARUKA! WHAT DO YOU THINK...?
ARA?
HARUKA? WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?

I DON'T REALLY LIKE THE YING-YANG RELIGION
DON'T WANNA HEAR STORIES ABOUT IT, EITHER
WHAT...?

HARUKA...
...IS THAT
BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PAST...?

WHAT'S UP WITH YOUR EXPRESSION?
HEY, LOOSEN UP A LITTLE
MAKES ME FEEL BAD

HERE IS MY SON'S ROOM.
I STILL CAN'T FULLY GRASP THAT MY SON IS DEAD, SO I'M PRESERVING HIS ROOM JUST AS IT WAS

WOW...
YOU WEREN'T KIDDING.
IF YOU'RE TOO EXCESSIVE IN KEEPING THE ROOM IN THE SAME STATE AS WHEN HE WAS ALIVE, IT'S NOT RECOMMENDED SINCE HIS SPIRIT BECOMES BEFUDDLED.
SO HE WAS DRAGGED BY AN UNKNOWN THING FROM HERE AND WAS KILLED
BUT AT LEAST IT'S HELPING ME NOW

BAAM
HARUKA! UNDER THE BLANKET!!
PAA
THIS IS...

IF THINGS REMAIN THIS WAY, STARTING THE RITUAL MIGHT NOT BE SUCH A GOOD IDEA.
I CAN'T FIGURE ANYTHING OUT.
SO WHO IN THE WORLD PUT THAT CURSE THERE, AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE?
RUSTLE
Again? Sheesh gonna be noisy as hell again.
SINCE FARMING IS CLOSELY AFFECTED BY NATURAL FORCES, THE TOWNSPEOPLE PRAYING TO THE GODS FOR DIVINE PROTECTION IS A VERY IMPORTANT RITUAL. SO YOU MUST BE A LITTLE MORE UNDERSTANDING.
THEY'RE ONLY PREPARING FOR THE FESTIVAL OF PRAYING TO THE GODS FOR DIVINE PROTECTION.
I really can't understand what these frickin humans are up to. Why the hell are they doing this every year without ever getting sicked and tired of it?
Huhhh
You can actually see me?
YEAH?

HUH... THAT GUY GOING THROUGH ALL THAT TROUBLE TRYING TO HOOK UP WITH A WEALTHY DAUGHTER
WHAT?
STUPID, FOOLISH, USELESS BEHAVIOR!
DADADA
EEK
GLARE
THAT... THAT WAS MAI!?
That human is scary.

MR. HARUKA...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M GUARDING THAT CRYSALIS OVER THERE
THOSE CROWS ON THAT TREE HAVE THEIR EYES ON IT.

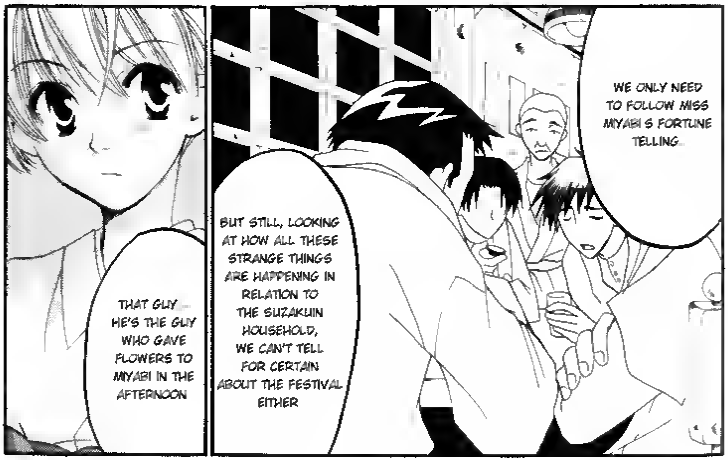
I... REALLY LIKE BUTTERFLIES
SO I JUST... WANT TO DO WHATEVER I CAN TO HELP SO THEY CAN BE BORN SAFELY...
S... SORRY
MAYBE I'M JUST WASTING MY TIME WITH THESE USELESS THINGS
FL AP
FL AP

YOU GUYS, STOP COMING INTO THIS GARDEN ANYMORE
Y'HEAR?
SO WITH THIS THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANYTHING IN THE WAY OF THAT GUY WAKING UP FROM HIS CRYSALIS NOW RIGHT?
AHHH....
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
SAW IT ♡
AYING~
SH
LOCK

WHAT'S THE POINT OF COMING ALL THE WAY OUT HERE TO GET A DRINK?
IT'S PART OF INTELLIGENCE GATHERING.
NOISY
NOISY
我が家
AND BESIDES, THERE ARE SOME THINGS I WANTED TO ASK YOU, HARUKA.
SLAM
HIC
CUP
YOU'RE HIGHLY SKILLED IN THAT WAY.
What can I do to seize that lady for myself?

IF I BECOME HER HUSBAND, ALL HER WEALTH BECOMES MINE AND I CAN ESCAPE FROM MY PATHETIC LIFE! SO YOU GOTTA HELP ME OUT AS WELL OVER HERE, BUDDY.
IF IT'S YOU HARUKA, I BET YOU CAN CONVINCE HER.
M...ME? YOU MEAN ME? REALLY...?

BUT WHY DO I HAVE DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
Huh-Huh! What are you saying? We're close personal friends—
WILL THIS YEAR'S SUZAKU FESTIVAL BE OKAY?


WE ONLY NEED TO FOLLOW MISS MIYABI'S FORTUNE TELLING.
BUT STILL, LOOKING AT HOW ALL THESE STRANGE THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN RELATION TO THE SUZAKUIN HOUSEHOLD, WE CAN'T TELL FOR CERTAIN ABOUT THE FESTIVAL EITHER
THAT GUY... HE'S THE GUY WHO GAVE FLOWERS TO MIYABI IN THE AFTERNOON

WHAT THE HEY!?
BY THE WAY, IT SEEMS LIKE THE SUZAKUIN LADY HAS GOTTEN HERSELF A GOOD MAN RECENTLY
SIP
I HEARD THE OTHER PERSON IS REALLY WEALTHY AND IS A YOUNGER SON FROM A GOOD, RESPECTABLE FAMILY
HE'S A BIT YOUNGER THAN THE LADY AT 23, BUT I HEARD HE'S REAL MATURE FOR HIS AGE
UGH!!
OH YEAH DON'T YOU GO TO THE SUZAKUIN FAMILY'S HOUSEHOLD OFTEN?
HAHA, I'M NOT DOING IT FOR THE MONEY. WHAT CAN I SAY, I JUST ENJOY MISS MIYABI'S COMPANY
THEN ISN'T THAT HER IDEAL TYPE!!
MAN, I'D KNOW WITHOUT SEEING ANYTHING!
DAMMIT!! I WAS A STEP LATE!!
YOU WERE SERIOUS?

RING
RING
CRASH
AAACCCKKK!!
IT'S
A
YOUKAI--!!

BL
Naumak
Samanda
Bazaradan
Khan!!
UWAAAAEEKK!
KUWOO
臨・兵・闘・者
皆・陣・裂・在・前

HARUKA!
CLANG
AS I THOUGHT...

THIS TYPE OF SPELL IS ONLY POSSIBLE WHEN THE SPELLCASTER HAS QUITE A BIT OF POWER
THIS WAS A SPELL.
THIS WAS NEITHER A GRUDGE NOR A DIVINE PUNISHMENT
WHO IS IT, EXACTLY...?
WHAT!?
MIYABI COLLAPSED?

MIYABI'S HEALTH WAS WEAK EVER SINCE SHE WAS BORN...
BUT RECENTLY WE DISCOVERED THAT SHE'S SUFFERING FROM AN INCURABLE ILLNESS. IT'S SO SERIOUS THAT EVEN THE DOCTORS HAVE PRETTY MUCH GIVEN UP ON IT.
MIYABI HAS...
NOT THAT MUCH LEFT TO LIVE, SO WE WERE TOLD THAT IT WOULDN'T BE UNUSUAL IF SHE DIED AT ANY TIME.
IN SPITE OF THAT, SHE STILL HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO PERFORM AN IMPORTANT FUNCTION FOR THE TOWN.
WE JUST...

HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO WATCH OVER MIYABI TO TRY AND ENSURE THAT SHE'S HAPPY THROUGH WHAT'S LEFT OF HER LIFE
...SO THAT'S WHY BOTH YOU AND MAI
WERE SO WORRIED ABOUT MIYABI ALL THE TIME LIKE THAT.
MAI! HOW'S MIYABI DOING?
I JUST GAVE HER HER MEDICATIONS AND HELPED HER GO TO SLEEP
...MIYABI WANTS...
...MR. HARUKA TO BE BY HER SIDE.
SNAP

MAI...
I'M COMING IN
CL
HN
K
MAI...

!
SWISH

I'M SORRY, I.....
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
MR. HARUKA...!
I WONDER IF I'LL BE FINE FOR AT LEAST AS LONG AS MR. HARUKA AND OTHERS ARE HERE...
MY BODY I THINK IT'S GIVING UP NOW

...AAAH.
CLICK
AND MR. HARUKA WILL GO AWAY AFTER THE FESTIVAL IS OVER?
PROBABLY
...
THEN...
MR. HARUKA...
SLIDE

PLEASE
MAKE LOVE TO ME
I'M NOT A LITTLE GIRL ANYMORE
YOU KNOW, I'M--

editor: phenanthrene97
proofreader: abri-jde
scanner: emi
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ETERNAL BLUE

YOU CERTAINLY HAVE A BAD HABIT OF PEEPING INTO A GIRL'S ROOM,
MR KANTARO
JUMPING ON A GUY IS A BAD HABIT TOO, MAI
I LIKE...
WHAT, TRIPPING GUYS OVER?
I MEAN, I LIKE YOU.

HOW ABOUT IF YOU GO OUT WITH ME INSTEAD OF MY MOTHER?
THEN YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WITH WITH THIS HOUSE, THE LAND, AND THE WEALTH ...
IT WOULDN'T BE A BAD DEAL FOR YOU, WOULD IT?
RIGHT, MR KANTARO?
IT'S BECAUSE YOU WANT TO USE ME, ISN'T IT?

IF YOU WERE GOING TO SEDUCE ME, THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE MATURE ABOUT IT
SLAM!!
AND STAY OUT!
FLICK!
WOMEN'S MOODS CHANGE TOO SUDDENLY
WHY?

WHY DON'T THINGS WORK OUT THE WAY I PLAN!?
IT'S DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU PROMISED!
... DO YOU HATE ME?

IS IT BECAUSE YOU DON'T NEED SOME WORTHLESS GIRL LIKE ME?
SCRATCH SCRATCH
YOU'RE JUST IN DESPAIR THAT'S ALL
I JUST HAPPENED TO BE NEAREST TO YOU PURELY BY CHANCE
IT WOULDN'T HAVE MATTERED WHO IT WAS
LITTLE GIRL TALKING LIKE THAT, IT'S RUDE
PLAY YOUR GAMES WITH SOME OTHER BASTARD. I DON'T LIKE IT
— YOU —

I LIKE YOU
I MEAN IT...
I REALLY LIKE MR HARUKA...

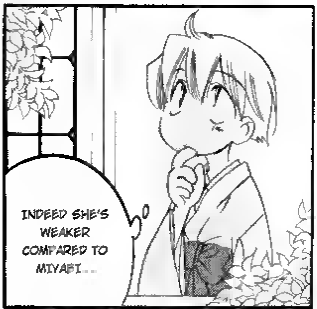
FINALLY THE SUZAKU FESTIVAL IS TOMORROW
TOMORROW'S FORTUNE TELLING... MAY I ENTRUST IT IN YOUR HANDS MR. ICHINOMIYA?
YES...
MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO ME, BUT...
I WONDER HOW MIYABI'S CONDITION IS...
MIYABI- ARE YOU FEELING BETTER?

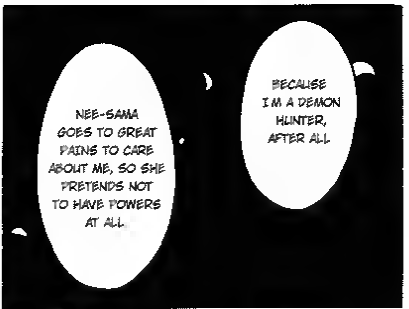
SL
AP
EHHH!?
I WAS ONLY ASKING NEE-SAMA TO PERFORM THE FORTUNE TELLING...
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY YOU'RE IMPRETINENT!
WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU DOING? ARE YOU TWO FIGHTING?

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS? YOU'VE NEVER DISOBEYED ME EVEN ONCE BEFORE
YOU'VE DONE NOTHING BUT HIDE BEHIND MY BACK ALL YOUR LIFE!
YOU WANNA BE LOCKED IN THE SHED LIKE LAST TIME?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
IT'S BECAUSE OF THAT GUY, RIGHT? I KNEW IT
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT TOMORROW'S FESTIVAL
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT YOU, EITHER
BANG

...AMAZING... NO ONE EVEN CAUGHT A GLIMMER HOW DID YOU KNOW?

MAI ALSO HAS POWERS, HUH?
BUT WHY ISN'T SHE TELLING FORTUNES?


INDEED SHE'S WEAKER COMPARED TO MIYABI...


NEE-SAMA GOES TO GREAT PAINS TO CARE ABOUT ME, SO SHE PRETENDS NOT TO HAVE POWERS AT ALL.
BECAUSE I'M A DEMON HUNTER, AFTER ALL.

I WANT IT TO HURRY UP SO I CAN SEE IT FLYING AWAY...
BUT THEY SAY THAT A BUTTERFLY CAN ONLY LIVE FOR TWO WEEKS. IF YOU THINK OF THAT, THEN-

ANYWAYS MIYABI WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN LOOKING AT?
THERE'S A BUTTERFLY CHRYSALIS THERE THAT LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO HATCH SOON

SO AT LEAST IT'S LEAVING BEHIND PROOF OF ITS EXISTENCE.
BUT BEFORE IT LEAVES, IT'LL LEAVE AN IMPRESSION OF ITS REALITY IN YOUR MIND, MIYABI.

THAT SOMEONE LIKE ME EXISTED...
I WISH SOMEONE WOULD REMEMBER IT...

IT'S FINALLY THE DAY OF THE SUZAKU FESTIVAL
YES...
MAI'S NOT EVEN COMING OUT OF HER ROOM...
ARE YOU REALLY GONNA DO IT, MIYABI?

IS IT ALRIGHT IF I DO IT INSTEAD?
IT'S OKAY, I
COUGH
COUGH
MIYABI!?
JUST WANT TO
LEAVE A LITTLE BIT MORE PROOF OF MY EXISTENCE
ARE YOU TELLING ME TO WATCH OVER MAI?

SOMETHING'S GONNA ATTACK. I'M SURE OF IT.
YOU ALREADY GOT A HUNCH ABOUT THIS CASE DON'T YOU
YOU JUST HAVE TO STAY IN THE HOUSE
AH I BETTER GET GOING NOW IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, THEN SEAL OFF ITS MOVEMENTS WITH LIGHTNING THEN I'LL BE ABLE TO SENSE IT
BE CAREFUL AND DON'T GET HURT!

MIYABI!
I'LL DO YOUR SISTER'S JOB AND HELP YOU.
SO, BE STRONG!
YES!

IT'S FAIRLY GRANDIOSE FOR A RURAL FESTIVAL
UNTIL WHEN DO I HAVE TO KEEP THIS UP? SHEESH, THAT KANTARO NOT TELLING ME
SLITHER
WHAT THE FUCK!?
THEY EVEN DO THAT AT A FESTIVAL?
HMM, THESE YUKATA...
WHAT...
WHAT THE HELL!?
!?
THIS...
THIS IS A KILLING AURA...

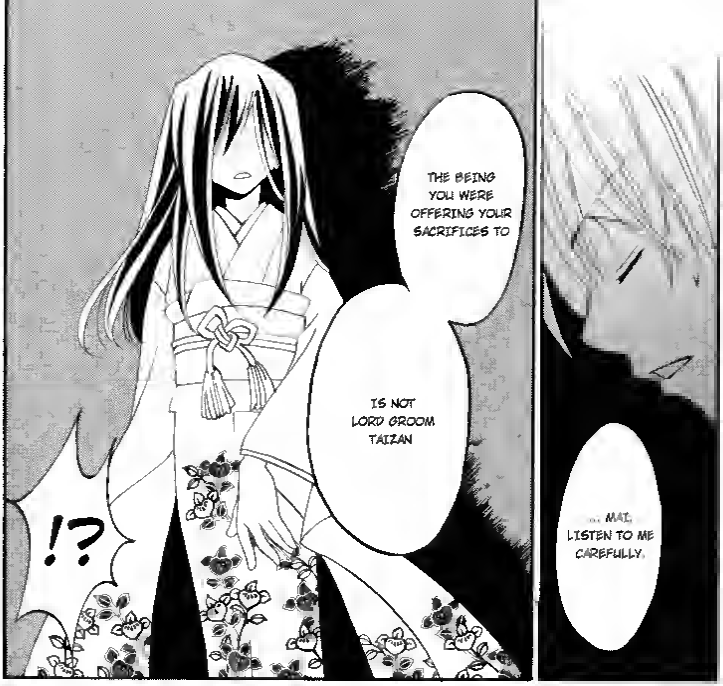
HAA...
I CAN REMEMBER...
HAA...
THIS SENSATION...
PAAA-!
KRAK

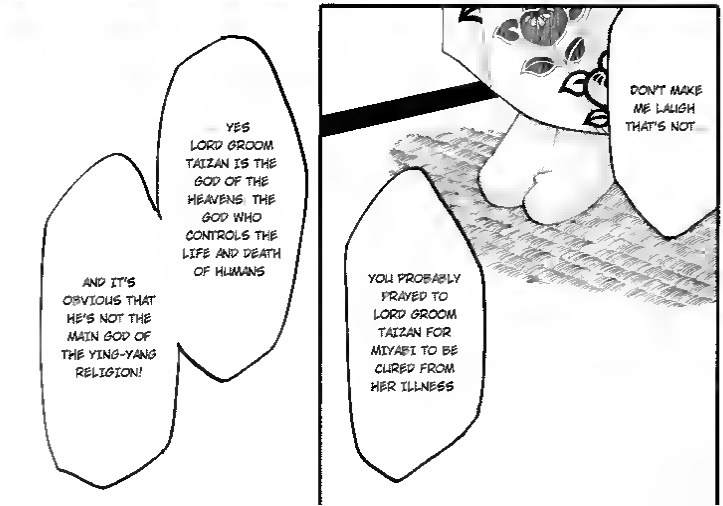
KANA
MIYABI
THIS IS MR HARUKA'S
CALLING MR KANTARO HURRY, GO
IT'LL BE ALRIGHT
YEAH

I KNEW RIGHT FROM THE START THAT YOU WEREN'T HUMAN
HAHA
TO WHOM ARE YOU DIRECTING YOUR ATTACKS? YOUKAI?
FU FU FU
HAHA
SLIP
I DON'T HAVE PRESCIENT POWERS LIKE MIYABI
BUT I HAVE THESE TYPE OF POWERS

— THE KILLING AURA IS GONE...?
WHY...?
WHAT!?
WHY CAN'T I KILL THIS MAN!?
?
LORD GROOM TAIZAN!
WHY ARE YOU ATTACKING ME!?

NOW... I HATE EVERY-THING!!
SWOOP
AARGH!
HARUKA! WHY ARE YOU HURT? WERE YOU TAKING IT EASY ON HER BECAUSE SHE'S A GIRL?
KANTARO!
YOU INTERFERING AGAIN!?


THE BEING YOU WERE OFFERING YOUR SACRIFICES TO
IS NOT LORD GROOM TAIZAN
!?
... MAI, LISTEN TO ME CAREFULLY.


DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH THAT'S NOT
YOU PROBABLY PRAYED TO LORD GROOM TAIZAN FOR MIYABI TO BE CURED FROM HER ILLNESS
YES LORD GROOM TAIZAN IS THE GOD OF THE HEAVENS. THE GOD WHO CONTROLS THE LIFE AND DEATH OF HUMANS
AND IT'S OBVIOUS THAT HE'S NOT THE MAIN GOD OF THE YING-YANG RELIGION!

THE LORD GROOM TAIZAN BEHIND YOU! SAID THAT MIYABI CAN CONTINUE TO LIVE IF YOU OFFER MEN AS LIVE SACRIFICES TO HIM, RIGHT?
AND THAT'S WHY HE LENT YOU THE SPELLCASTING POWERS
THAT'S RIGHT! THAT'S WHY I

THAT'S ENOUGH!
CAST A CURSE ON ANY MAN WHO APPROACHED MIYABI!
THAT'S WHY IF I CAN ONLY KILL HARUKA, THEN THIS TIME FOR REAL !

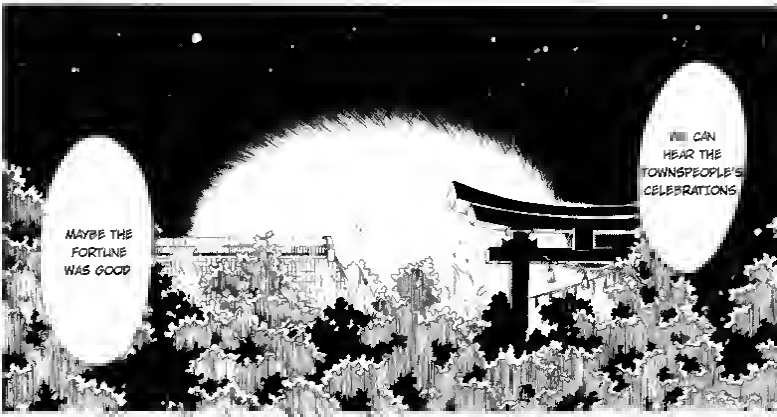
WHAT'S NEEDED TO SAVE MIYABI IS NOT COUNTLESS MEN AS LIVE HUMAN SACRIFICES BUT
A HUMAN WHO IS HAPPY TO PUT THEIR LIFE ON THE LINE FOR MIYABI
THAT KIND OF A HEART IS WHAT MOVES LORD GROOM TAIZAN

BUT, WITH YOUR LOW SPIRITUAL POWERS, JUST MEETING LORD GROOM TAIZAN WOULD BE A STRETCH
YOU'RE LYING
THEN EVERYTHING I HAD DONE UNTIL NOW...
THEY WERE ALL FOR NOTHING?
I'M NOT REALLY SURE...
TO LIE TO THIS KID AND USE HER LIKE THIS...
AND I COULDN'T EVEN SAVE MIYABI...?
THEN KILLING MY STEPFATHER AND TOWNSPEOPLE WERE MEANINGLESS

AM I YOUR TARGET?
JUST WHAT IS YOUR GOAL?
AND JUST WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU?

HAA...
HAA...

WAAAAA
JUST AS I SUSPECTED, SOMEONE OR SOMETHING IS BEHIND THIS
SHIKIGAMI...!

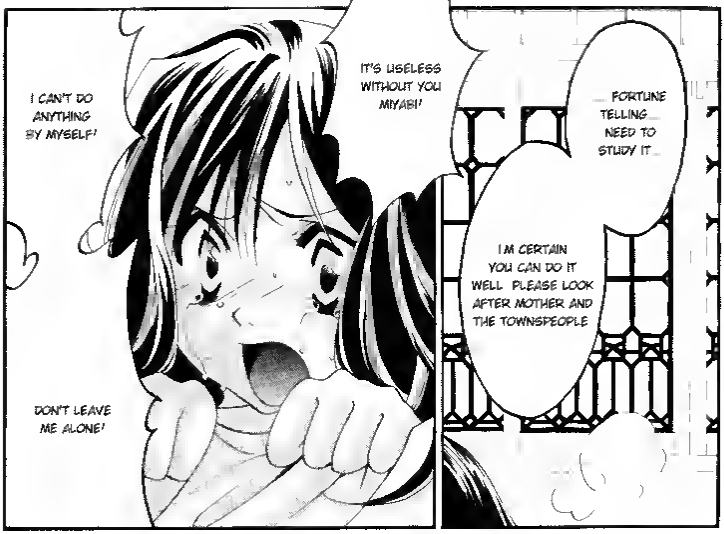

I CAN HEAR THE TOWNSPEOPLE'S CELEBRATIONS
MAYBE THE FORTUNE WAS GOOD

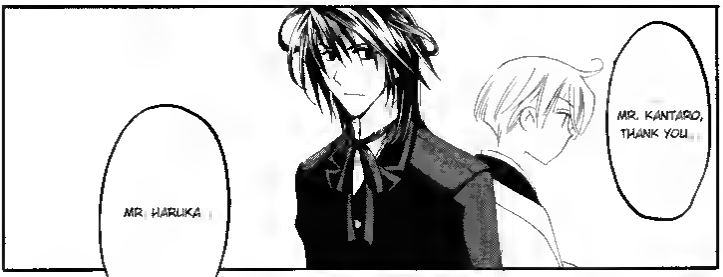
YES... MIYABI TRIED HER BEST.

MOTHER, WHAT'S WRONG?
MIYABI!

GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF! MIYABI!
IT'S A MIRACLE THAT SHE MADE IT THIS FAR
THERE'S NOTHING MORE I COULD
MIYABI! NO!!
OH YEAH
IF IT'S YOU, YOU COULD PROBABLY PRAY TO LORD GROOM TAIZAN!
GRAB
SO INSTEAD OF MIYABI...!

I'M SORRY
I CAN'T.
WHY...?
WHY ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU CAN'T! YOU CAN DO IT!
NEE-SAMA.
IT'S OKAY DON'T MAKE MR KANTARO FEEL AWKWARD
THIS IS SOMETHING GOD HAS DECIDED
MIYABI
YOU KNOW NEE-SAMA.


I CAN'T DO ANYTHING BY MYSELF!
IT'S USELESS WITHOUT YOU MIYABI!
... FORTUNE TELLING... NEED TO STUDY IT...
I AM CERTAIN YOU CAN DO IT WELL. PLEASE LOOK AFTER MOTHER AND THE TOWNSPEOPLE
DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE!


MR. KANTARO, THANK YOU...
MR. HARUKA...

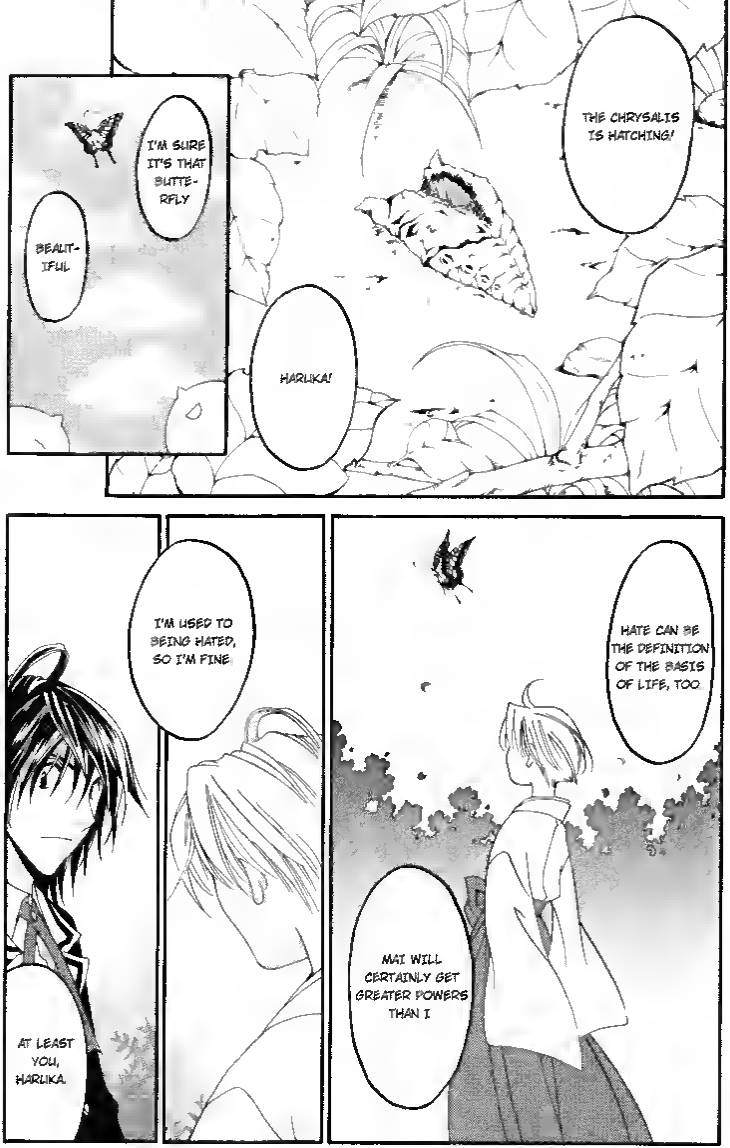
MEETING YOU...

MEETING YOU
MADE ME VERY HAPPY
SLIP
MIYABI!!
MIYABI!!
I WILL

I WILL CURSE YOU FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE,
KANTARO ICHINOMIYA!
OUR WORK IS ALL DONE HERE WE'LL LEAVE TOMORROW MORNING.

GOING BACK HOME LIKE YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY AFTER YOU'VE RECEIVED YOUR FEE?
NO CHOICE IF I STAYED, MAI WOULDN'T HAVE LIKED IT.

BUT WHY...
BUT WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL HER SINS WERE COMMITTED THAT WOULD HAVE MADE IT USELESS EVEN IF YOU PRAYED TO LORD GROOM TAIZAN?


THE CHRYSALIS IS HATCHING!
I'M SURE IT'S THAT BUTTE-RFLY
BEAUT-IFUL
HARUKA!
I'M USED TO BEING HATED, SO I'M FINE.
HATE CAN BE THE DEFINITION OF THE BASIS OF LIFE, TOO.
MAI WILL CERTAINLY GET GREATER POWERS THAN I
AT LEAST YOU, HARUKA.

I WOULD LIKE YOU TO REMEMBER
MIYABI'S EXISTENCE

... OF COURSE.

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE PASS AWAY SO HAPPILY BEFORE
I WILL NEVER FORGET IT
SWOOSH
!
THE CLOUDS ARE GIVING OFF A STRANGE AURA.
LET'S HURRY, HARUKA.
RUSTLE

THAT'S A PREMO-NITION

please visit us at
*eternal blue on
irchighway
editor: phenanthrene
proofreader: abri-ida
scanner: emi
translator: sephiroth
ETERNAL BLUE

PLEASE SAVE US FROM MISFORTUNES.
SINCE THE HELP OF MEN IS WITHOUT PURPOSE.
WE WORK WITH OUR HEALTH AND WELL-BEING WITH ONLY THE AID OF GOD.
ONLY YOU H..VE THE POWER TO CRUSH OUR ENEMIES.

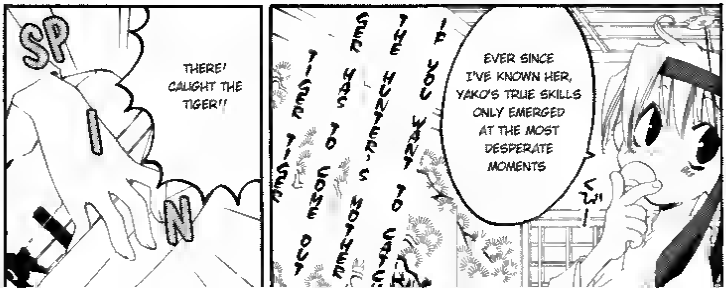
CHAPTER 8

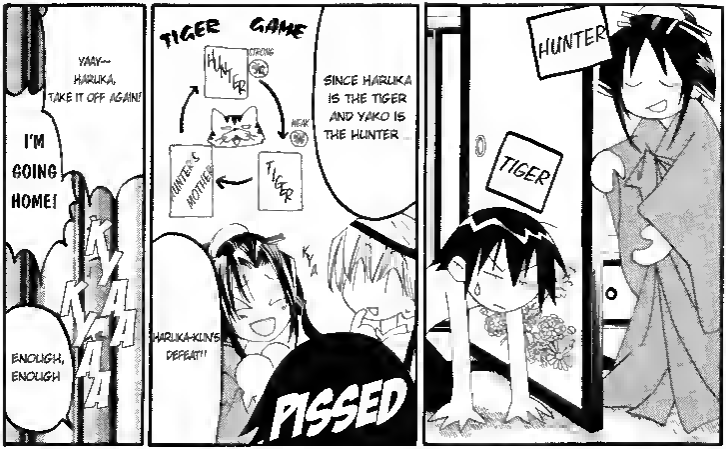
TENGU... IS THIS HOW YOU AMUSE YOURSELF...?
LOOK AT THIS IF YOU SHINE LIGHT THROUGHLIKE THIS, ISN'T IT REALLY BEAUTIFUL?
SPARKLE
SPARKLE

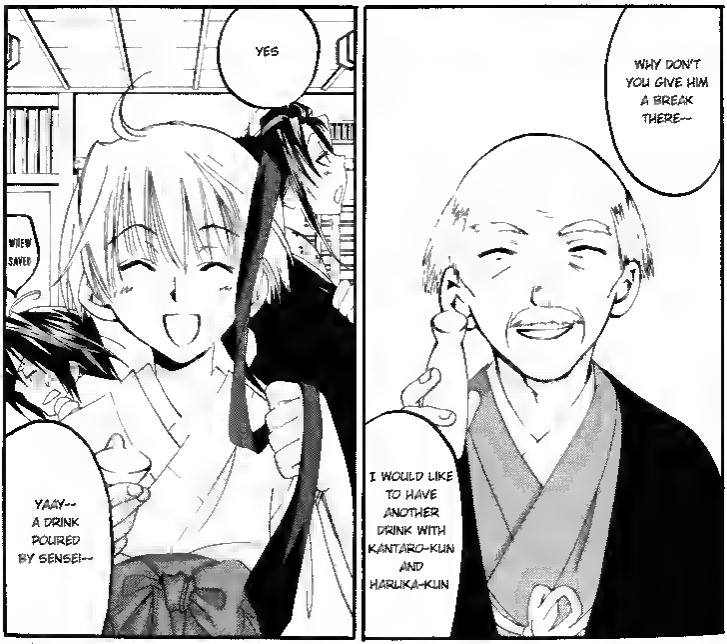
tactics 3

YOSH---
HARUKA LOST!
TAKE IT OFF!
TAKE IT OFF!
TAKE IT ALL OFF!
DAMMIT !!
STR

I, HARUKA, LOSING CONTINUOUSLY I WOULD'VE WON IF I HAD JUST ONE MORE CARD
HARUKA-KUN, YOU SHOULDN'T UNDERESTIMATE ME
A TRUE PRO STRIVES TO DO HER BEST FOR HER CUSTOMERS YET DOES NOT FULLY REVEAL HERSELF
I, YAKO, DO NOT CONSIDER MYSELF THE FOREMOST GEISHA IN GANDA PROVINCE FOR NOTHING.


EVER SINCE I'VE KNOWN HER, YAKO'S TRUE SKILLS ONLY EMERGED AT THE MOST DESPERATE MOMENTS
IF YOU WANT TO CATCH THE HUNTER'S MOTHER TIGER, TIGER HAS TO COME OUT
THERE! CAUGHT THE TIGER!!
SPIN


YAAY~ HARUKA, TAKE IT OFF AGAIN!
I'M GOING HOME!
KYAAAA
ENOUGH, ENOUGH
TIGER GAME
HUNTER
STRONG
TIGER
WEAK
HUNTER'S MOTHER
SINCE HARUKA IS THE TIGER AND YAKO IS THE HUNTER
HARUKA-KUN'S DEFEAT!!
PISSED
HUNTER
TIGER


YES
WHEW SAVED
YAAY~ A DRINK POURED BY SENSEI~
WHY DON'T YOU GIVE HIM A BREAK THERE~
I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ANOTHER DRINK WITH KANTARO-KUN AND HARUKA-KUN

BOTH OF US OWE A LOT TO NUMATA SENSEI
ANYWAYS IT'S BEEN A WHILE NUMATA SENSEI YOU USED TO SUMMON ME OFTEN WHEN KANTARO WAS YOUR STUDENT
I'M RETIRED FROM ACTIVE DUTY ALREADY AND I'M OLD AS I CAN BE

SIP
SO SENSEI SO WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF TODAY'S MEETING
HO SO THIS OLD MAN WAS KANTARO'S MASTER
BUT STILL, YOU'RE THE FOREMOST SCHOLAR IN THE FIELD OF TRADITIONAL STUDIES

SORRY, I'M LATE
NOW IT SEEMS ALL THE EXPERTS HAVE GATHERED

EXPERTS...
HASUMI!!
I'M HAPPY TO SEE YOU LOOKING HEALTHY
NUMATA SENSEI!
MISS YAKO? PLEASE ACCEPT THESE FLOWERS
OH MY, THANK YOU! YOU'RE VERY KIND, UNLIKE A CERTAIN OTHER PERSON
CHE. YOU NEVER CHANGE, STILL A NAUSEATING BASTARD
WITH THAT OILY APPEARANCE--

WHAT--
ICHINOMIYA!
YOU WERE
STILL ALIVE?
ARE YOU STILL WRITING
THOSE UNMARKETABLE
CHILDISH NOVELS?

IT'S NEVER CHILDISH
AND IT'S NEVER
EVER A FANTASY
NOR EROTICA NOR
RESTRICTED TO
18 AND OVER!!
SNAP
IT'S TRUE
THAT IT'S
UNMARKETABLE
WHAT DO
YOU MEAN,
UNMARKETABLE?

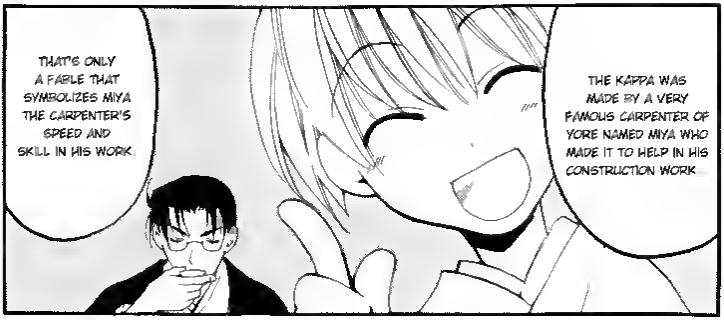
MR. HASUMI IS A
SCHOOLMATE OF
KANTARO WHO WAS
INSTRUCTED BY
NUMATA-SENSEI
WHEN HE WAS
A STUDENT.
YO--- YAKO!
WHO'S THAT
GUY?
HE'S ON A LEVEL
TOTALLY DIFFERENT
FROM KANTARO
IN THAT HE'S AN
ULTRA-RESPECTED ELITE
SCHOLAR IN TRADITIONAL
AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES.
THAN
KANTARO!
SO
BASICALLY,
GOT MORE
ABILITIES

KANTARO USED TO HUNT DEMONS EVER SINCE HIS SCHOOL DAYS SO HE MISSED A LOT OF CLASSES
GOT HELD BACK AGAIN
HE SEEMED TO HAVE HAD GOOD GRADES BUT HE GRADUATED MUCH LATER THAN HIS UNDERCLASSMAN MR HASUMI
Hey... Why aren't you answering?
UNDERCLASSMAN...? THEN JUST HOW OLD IS KANTARO NOW?

HARUKA IS MY ASSISTANT
HO-HM
HE'S HELPING IN MY TRADITIONAL STUDIES YOUKAI RESEARCH
SHOOP
MISS YAKO... THIS GENTLEMAN IS...
PEER
YOUKAI RESEARCH...
SNAP
WHY'RE YOU LAUGHING--
FEET
YES JUST UNTIL RECENTLY, I WAS STUDYING ABROAD IN ENGLAND
STUDYING ABROAD IN ENGLAND...?
MY MY HASUMI AND KANTARO, WHENEVER THEY MEET, THEY'RE ALWAYS AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS LIKE THAT WHEN WILL THEY EVER GROW UP?
MY MY APOLOGIES I AM ABASHED TO SHOW SUCH INEXCUSABLE BEHAVIOR IN FRONT OF YOU, SENSEI
ANYWAYS, HASUMI I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU ATTENDING THE ALUMNI MEETINGS ANYMORE, DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
REALLY HASUMI SHOULD GROW UP A LITTLE

THE REASON WHY I CALLED YOU TWO TODAY IS BECAUSE I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO FIND DEARLY.
A KAPPA'S
LADLE
OR SO YOU SAY?
OLD MAN, ARE YOU GETTING SENILE?
THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'M HEARING SOMETHING LIKE THAT TOO
RUB RUB
EXCUSE ME, SENSEI! I DON'T REMEMBER EVER READING ANY PASSAGE REGARDING—
HMMMMM
WAS THERE A KAPPA THAT HAD SUCH A THING?

THAT BASTARD MADE ME LOOK LIKE A FOOL IN THE SAME WAY, TOO
BUT I HAVE STRONG CONVICTIONS THAT IT REALLY EXISTS DUE TO FOLKLORE FROM A TOWN I INVESTIGATED WHEN I STARTED MY CAREER AS A TRADITIONAL STUDIES SCHOLAR
GRIP
I'M FINE!!
I FORGOT THE IMPORTANT PART...
TILT
TILT
THAT... WHICH TOWN WAS IT?
IS IT SENILITY AFTER ALL...
SENSEI, WHICH TOWN IS IT?
THAT BASTARD...?
A YOUKAI LIVING BY THE WATER...
STORIES ABOUT KAPPAS EXISTED IN MAY DIFFERENT REGIONS EVEN HOW IT'S CALLED, FROM MITSUKA KAWAUSO TO HYOSUBE...

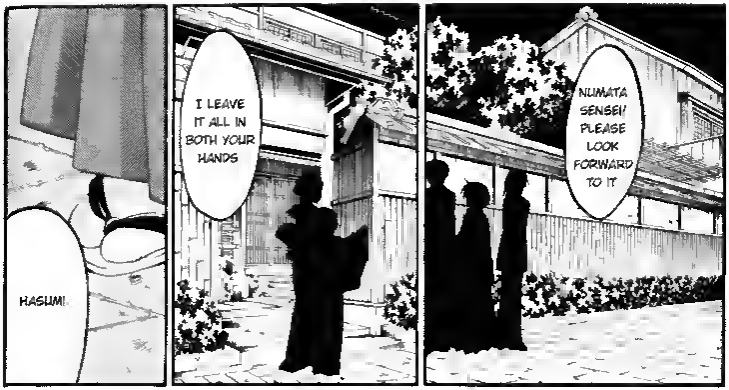

THAT'S ONLY A FABLE THAT SYMBOLIZES MIYA THE CARPENTER'S SPEED AND SKILL IN HIS WORK.
THE KAPPA WAS MADE BY A VERY FAMOUS CARPENTER OF YORE NAMED MIYA WHO MADE IT TO HELP IN HIS CONSTRUCTION WORK...

IT'S A COMMON OCCURENCE WHEN MERCHANTS TRADE IN THE ASIAN CONTINENT TO DEPICT FOREIGNERS AS YOUKAIS
IN KYUSHU, THERE WAS A MERCHANT WHO USED TO TRADE WITH A WHOLE FAMILY OF KAPPAS...

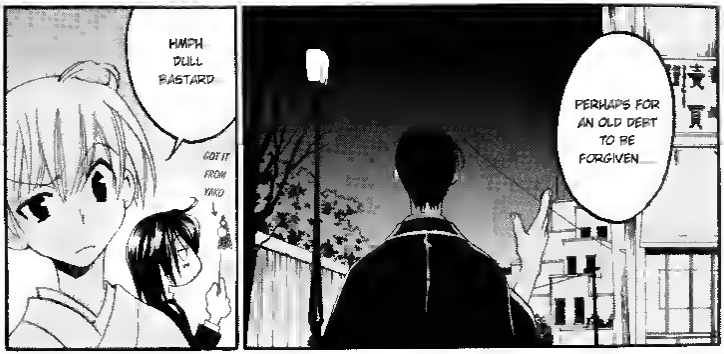
IT WAS A VERY BAD HABIT OF THE JAPANESE IN THE PAST.
TO LABEL ANYTHING THAT DOESN'T CORRESPOND TO THEIR PERCEIVED NATURAL ORDER OR WORLDVIEW AS "YOUKAI" OR "GOD"
DA
DUM

YES, SENSEI I SHALL DISCOVER THE APPROPRIATE PASSAGES AND BRING THE KAPPA'S LADLE TO YOU.
IT HEARTENS ME TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT.
MR. HASUMI IS SO COOL--
HEY, HERE... CLEARLY... A TENGU....
I DON'T LIKE YOU FOR SOME REASON
IF IT'S KAPPAS THEN LEAVE IT TO MEI
AHA! THERE WAS THAT WAY I WAS GONNA, ANYWAYS
I LEAVE IT IN YOUR HANDS.
WHAT ABOUT IF YOU ASK YOUR YOUKAI FRIENDS? ICHINOMIYA!
THAT MORON GETTING DRAGGED IN AGAIN
WOULD THEY BE ALRIGHT?
TO SEE WHO GETS HIS HANDS ON THE KAPPA'S LADLE FIRST...

IT'S
A
BATTLE!!

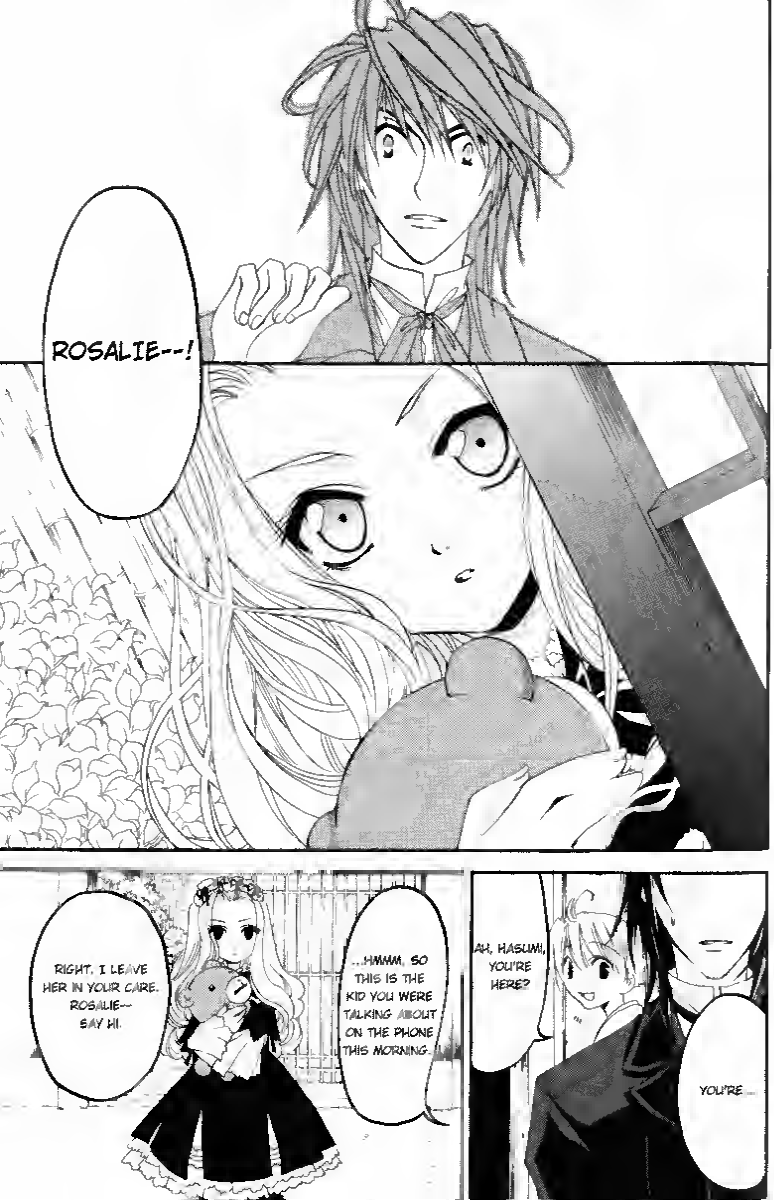

HASUMI
I LEAVE IT ALL IN BOTH YOUR HANDS
NUMATA SENSEI! PLEASE LOOK FORWARD TO IT

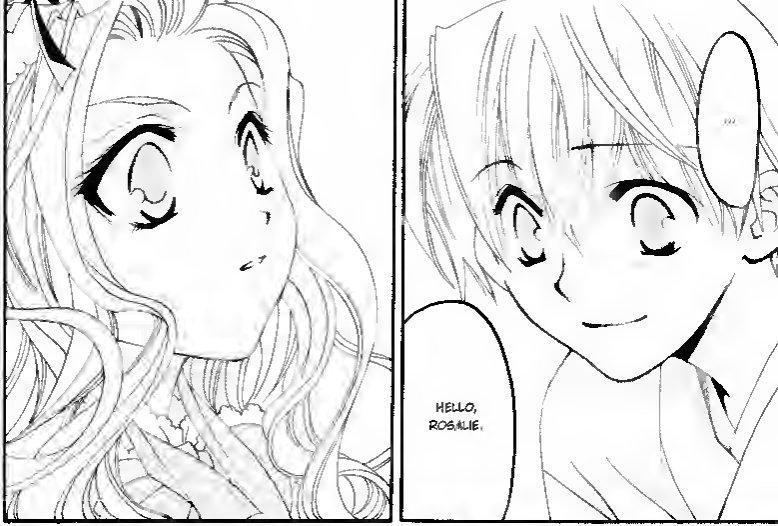
YOU WANNA PLACE A WAGER ON THIS BATTLE?
IF I WIN I GET ONE OF YOUR RESEARCH MATERIALS
WHAT DO YOU WANT, HASUMI?
AS YOU WISH


HMPH DULL BASTARD
GOT IT FROM YAKO
PERHAPS FOR AN OLD DEBT TO BE FORGIVEN

HOORAY
YAY-- WITH THAT BASTARD'S RESEARCH, I CAN JUMP ALL AT ONCE INTO THE SPOTLIGHT AS A TRADITIONAL STUDIES SCHOLAR
YOU'RE SO CHEAP, YOU KNOW THAT?

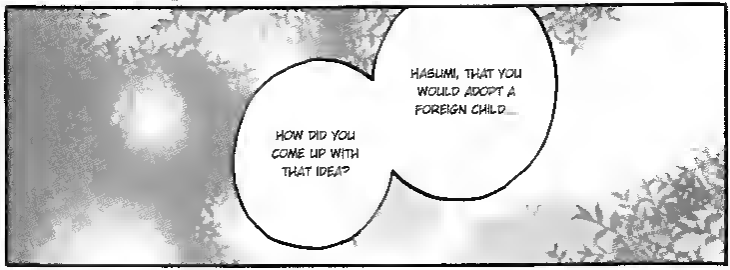
HARUKA
THERE'S A VISITOR. GO SEE WHO IT IS
DING DONG
EXCUSE ME.
GOOD MORNING! HARUKA-KUN!
LET'S TRY OUR BEST TODAY, SHALL WE!
ROSALIE— THIS IS WHERE YOU'LL STAY FOR THE DAY.
?
?
COME ON OUT HERE-

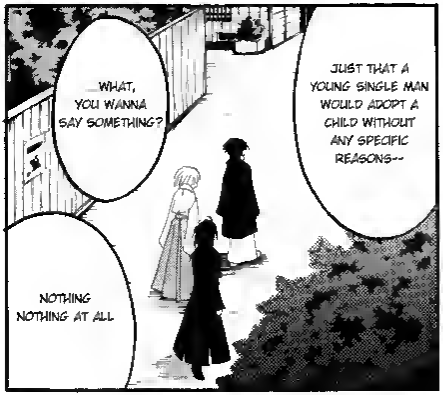

ROSALIE--!
RIGHT. I LEAVE HER IN YOUR CARE. ROSALIE--- SAY HI.
...HMMM. SO THIS IS THE KID YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT ON THE PHONE THIS MORNING.
AH, HASUMI, YOU'RE HERE?
YOU'RE...

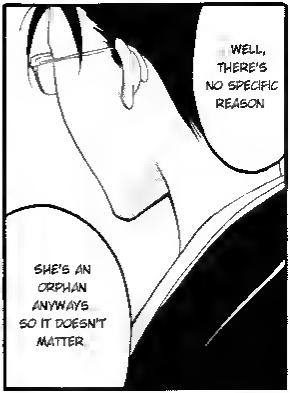

...
HELLO, ROSALIE.

SO YOUR NAME IS ROSALIE. I'M YOUKO
NICE TO MEET YOU
KANTARO WE JUST HAVE TO WATCH OVER THIS KID TODAY, RIGHT?
YE YEAH

HARUKA
LET'S GO


HASUMI, THAT YOU WOULD ADOPT A FOREIGN CHILD...
HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH THAT IDEA?

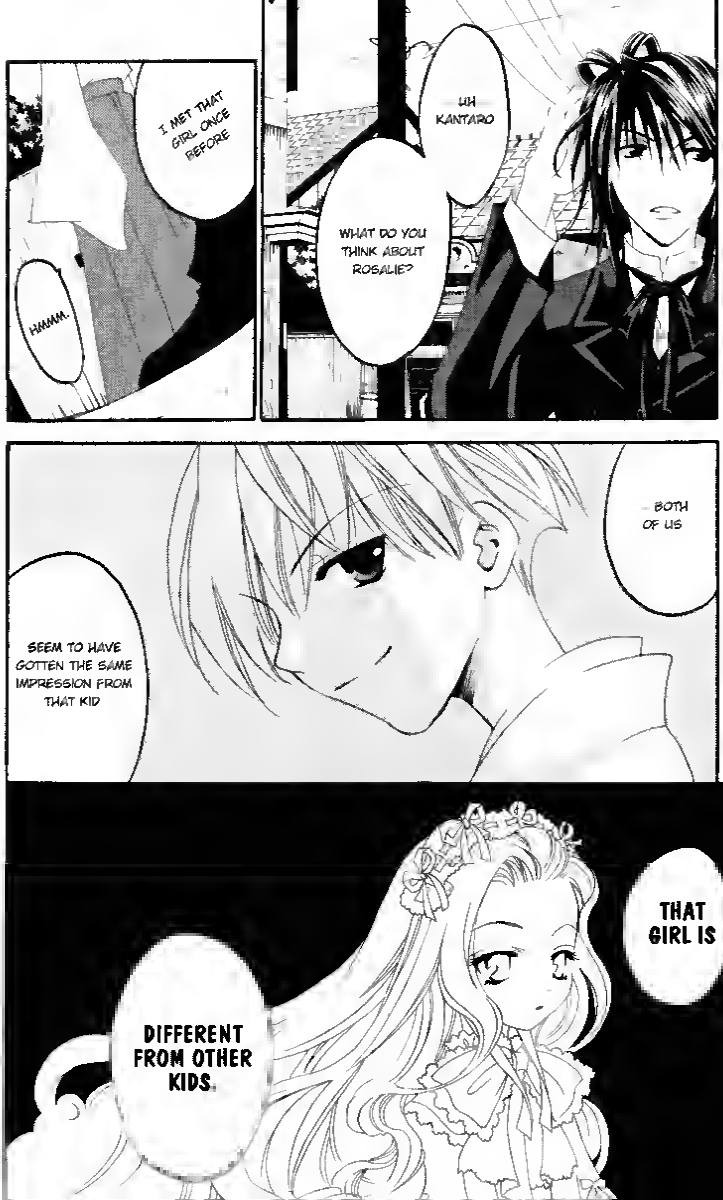

...WHAT, YOU WANNA SAY SOMETHING?
JUST THAT A YOUNG SINGLE MAN WOULD ADOPT A CHILD WITHOUT ANY SPECIFIC REASONS--
NOTHING NOTHING AT ALL


...WELL, THERE'S NO SPECIFIC REASON
SHE'S AN ORPHAN ANYWAYS SO IT DOESN'T MATTER

SMIRK
I...I NEED TO GO INVESTIGATE THIS LADLE. I DON'T HAVE TINE TO DISCUSS USELESS THINGS WITH YOU
Dude you really play dirty, you know that?

AH
HOHO

FUSH
NISS YAKO IS NOT THAT NARROW-MINDED OF A PERSON!
YAKO DOESN'T SEEM TO LIKE MEN WITH KIDS ATTACHED TO THEM.


I MET THAT GIRL ONCE BEFORE
HMMM.
UH KANTARO
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT ROSALIE?
BOTH OF US
SEEM TO HAVE GOTTEN THE SAME IMPRESSION FROM THAT KID
THAT GIRL IS
DIFFERENT FROM OTHER KIDS.

THEN WHY DON'T WE GO QUESTION SOME YOUKAIS
LIKE WHAT HASUMI SAID
ARA ? HE'S NOT COMING OUT
I'M ON PRETTY GOOD TERMS WITH THE YOUKAI THAT LIVES HERE
YO! KAMA-KUN!!
THAT GUY HASUMI SAID HE WAS GOING TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION ABOUT THE LADLE
IS THERE ANYTHING SPECIAL ABOUT THAT LADLE?

YOU CAN RECEIVE A MIRACLE IF YOU EAT WITH A LADLE YOU RECEIVED FROM A SHRINE
BASICALLY IT SYMBOLIZES BLESSINGS AND A LONG LIFE

FROM OLDEN TIMES THE SCOOP PART IN THE MIDDLE OF THE LADLE WAS CONSIDERED TO BE WHERE GOD RESIDED
EVEN IN PLACES LIKE SHRINES, THERE ARE A LOT OF CASES WHERE IT'S USED FOR SIMILAR PURPOSES
PLUNGE
PLUNGE

SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
BUT ANYWAYS WHERE DID KAMA-KUN GO?

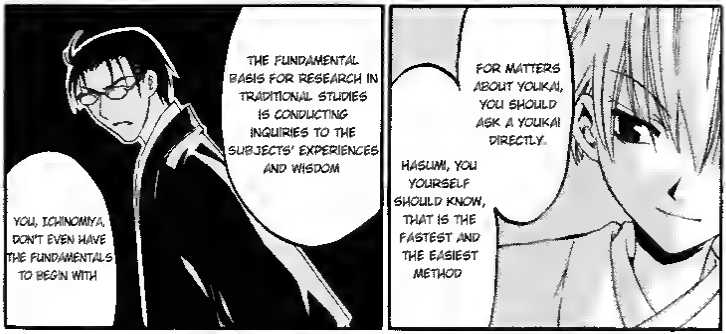
IT'S A VERY FRIENDLY SPELLCASTING TOOL THAT YOU CAN FIND IN ANY HOUSEHOLD

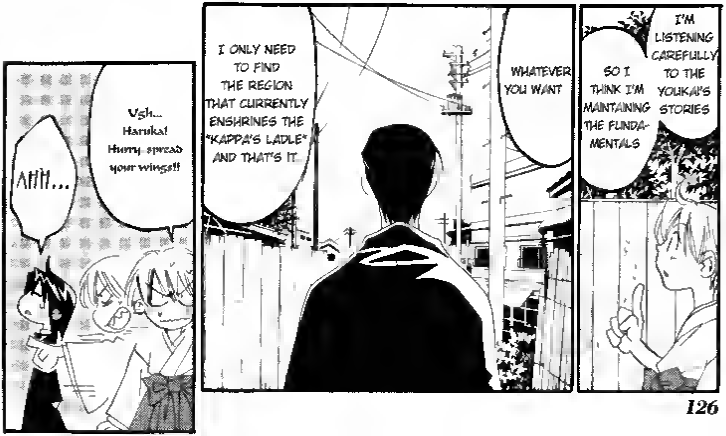
ACKK!! YOUKAI-EATING TENGU!!
OY! KANTARO ISN'T THIS WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHAT AM I DOING HERE... I SENSED THE PRESENCE OF A YOUKAI-EATING TENGU! SO I'M HIDING
KANTARO!
K-MA-KUN! BEEN AWHILE!
HUH?
A KAPPA WITH A LADLE?
YEAH YOU DON'T KNOW EITHER?
HMM. I'VE SEEN MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF THINGS WHILE LIVING BY THE RIVER FOR SEVERAL CENTURIES BUT I DON'T REALLY KNOW ABOUT THAT ONE

AH, THAT'S RIGHT!
OH YEAH. THERE'S THOSE GUYS WHO SHOW UP HERE OCCASIONALLY.
ALTHOUGH I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THEM
KA-KANTARO, SORRY FOR NOT BEING HELPFUL.
...IS THAT SO. IF YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT IT, PERHAPS SUCH A THING DOESN'T EXIST
KAMA-KUN! THANKS
KARUKAI! LET'S GO!
SO COOL!
TO THINK THAT KANTARO HAS A YOUKAI-EATING TENGU AS HIS UNDERLING...
MOUNTAIN?

HASUMI?
SO YOU'RE FINALLY FOCUSING ON THE LADLE?
KAPPAS ARE USUALLY IN RIVERS OR OCEANS... WHY ARE YOU GOING TO THE MOUNTAINS?
THE LADLE IS SOMETHING ORIGINALLY MADE BY A CARPENTER WHO LIVED IN THE MOUNTAINS
THAT'S...
WELL, THAT CAN BE TRUE TOO, BUT...
WAS CONSIDERED TO BE A HOLY OBJECT SO IN CONCLUSION, THE KAPPA'S LADLE IS ENSHRINED IN THE MOUNTAINS.
THE TOWNSPEOPLE BELIEVED THAT A GOD LIVED IN THE MOUNTAINS. THE LADLE AS A CONVENIENT TOOL BESTOWED FROM GOD.

A YOUKAI CALLED YAMAWARO COMES DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE RIVER EVERY SPRING AND TURNS INTO A KAPPA.
AND IN AUTUMN GOES BACK TO THE MOUNTAINS FROM THE RIVER AND TURNS BACK INTO A YAMAWARO.


FOR MATTERS ABOUT YOUKAI, YOU SHOULD ASK A YOUKAI DIRECTLY.
HASUMI, YOU YOURSELF SHOULD KNOW, THAT IS THE FASTEST AND THE EASIEST METHOD
THE FUNDAMENTAL BASIS FOR RESEARCH IN TRADITIONAL STUDIES IS CONDUCTING INQUIRIES TO THE SUBJECTS' EXPERIENCES AND WISDOM
YOU, ICHINOMIYA, DON'T EVEN HAVE THE FUNDAMENTALS TO BEGIN WITH

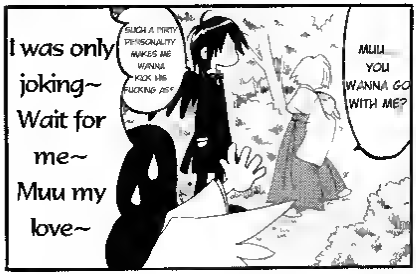

I'M LISTENING CAREFULLY TO THE YOUKAI'S STORIES
SO I THINK I'M MAINTAINING THE FUNDAMENTALS
WHATEVER YOU WANT
I ONLY NEED TO FIND THE REGION THAT CURRENTLY ENSHRINES THE "KAPPA'S LADLE" AND THAT'S IT.
Ugh... Haruka! Hurry, spread your wings!!
AHH...

SAY "AHH!"
HERE,
MISS SUGINO!
DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT A "KAPPA'S LADLE" BY ANY CHANCE?
POP
OUT
IT'S KANTARO!
GYAAA

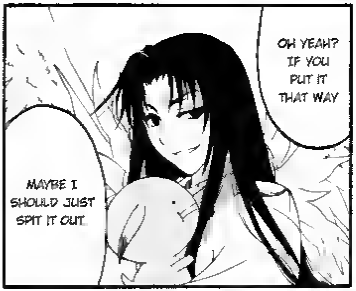
A KAPPA CARRYING A LADLE?
AHH! OF COURSE I KNOW.

HMPH
WHICH MOUNTAIN IS IT?

MISS SUGINO, AS EXPECTED! I LOVE YOU SO MUCH!!
BUT I HATE YOU SO MUCH!!
YOU MEAN HUGGING THAT?
SQUEEZE


I was only joking~ Wait for me~ Muu my love~
SUCH A DIRTY PERSONALITY MAKES ME WANNA KICK HIS FUCKING ASS
MUU, YOU WANNA GO WITH ME?

MISS SUGINO! WHERE, ON WHICH MOUNTAIN DOES THAT YAMAWARO LIVE?


OH YEAH? IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY
MAYBE I SHOULD JUST SPIT IT OUT.

WHAT... SUGINO! STOP STALLING.
HURRY UP AND SAY IT. I WANNA GO HOME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND GET SOME SLEEP TOO.

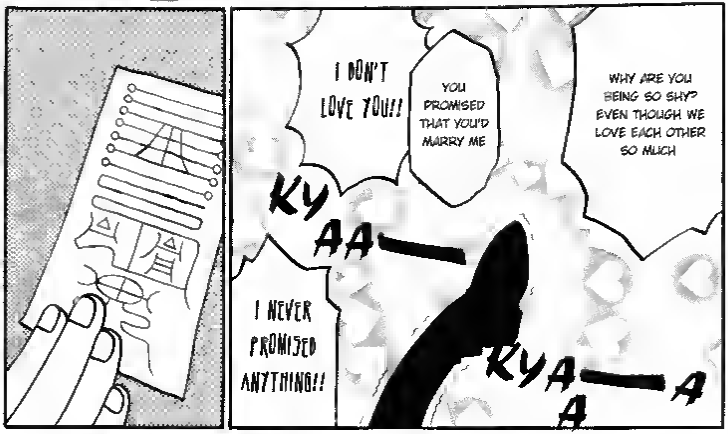
MOUNT TAIHOU.

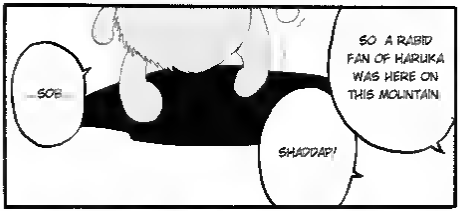
ON FIRE
DON'T YOU HAVE TO FLY ME TO MOUNT TAIHOU?
UH KANTARO, I'M GONNA GO HOME NOW
HARUKA!
KANTARO... PLEASE...

I'M BEGGING YOU, I'LL JUST DROP YOU OFF AND THEN GO HOME
WHAT? WHY ARE YOU HATING GOING THERE SO MUCH?
HATING? WHO SAID I WAS HATING?
YOU CAN'T!! YOU HAVE TO GO WITH ME!!

SO THIS IS THE MOUNTAIN WHERE THE KAPPA CARRYING THE LADLE IS--
WANNA GO HOME-- WANNA GO HOME--
RING
AH
BLAM!
WHO'S THAT?
HARUKA?

YOUKAI-EATING TENGU! YOU CAME TO SEE ME?
AARRGGGH
GO AWAY!
LOVE YOU! MAKE LOVE TO ME!
KISSSSSS
HEY YOU-- KANTARO! DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS!
GET AWAY FROM ME--!!
AYYNG! I LOVE YOU! MARRY ME RIGHT NOW! AHHNNN!
LET ME GO--!!
BUT HOW CAN I LAY A FINGER ON HARUKA'S FIANCE?
YOUKAI-EATING TENGU! MARRY ME!
ZOOM
ZOOM
YOU MOTHERFUCKER!! CAN'T YOU SEE I'M HATING THIS!?


WHY ARE YOU BEING SO SHY? EVEN THOUGH WE LOVE EACH OTHER SO MUCH
YOU PROMISED THAT YOU'D MARRY ME
I DON'T LOVE YOU!!
KYAA—
I NEVER PROMISED ANYTHING!!
KYAA—A


SO A RABID FAN OF HARUKA WAS HERE ON THIS MOUNTAIN
...SOB
SHADDAP!

I'M SORRY, YAMABIKO! THERE'S SOMETHING IMPORTANT I NEED TO DISCUSS WITH HIM
WHEN
PLEASE KEEP STILL FOR JUST A MINUTE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

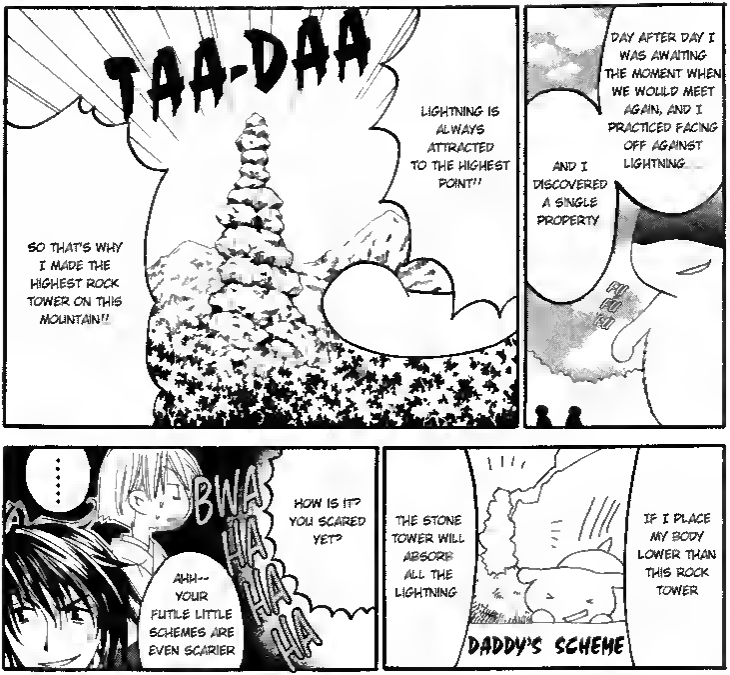
DON'T, DON'T GO!
YOUKAI-EATING TENGU!

DA DA DUM
YOUKAI-EATING TENGU!!
EHH?
AWWW... FUCK...
WHAT!?

SO WE MEET AGAIN, AFTER A THOUSAND YEARS
PSHOOOOO
CEASE YOUR RESISTANCE AND MARRY MY DAUGHTER!!

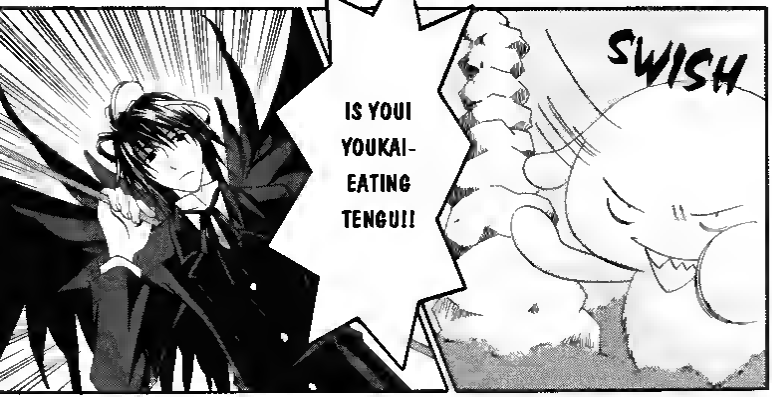
KUWOOO
BAM
THAT BASTARD IS THE FATHER OF THE YOUKAI WE MET JUST BEFORE
ACK!!
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
HE'S ALWAYS LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO TRY AND GET ME TO MARRY HIS DAUGHTER SO THAT HE COULD RAISE HIS STATUS
I REALLY MEAN IT
YOU FATHER AND DAUGHTE....

WHOA, HARUKA! AREN'T YOU GOING A BIT OVERBOARD? WHAT IF THEY DIE?
I CONTROLLED IT SO THAT IT'S JUST ENOUGH TO IMMOBILIZE THEM.
BAM
BAM
BOOM
ARE CLINGING TO ME TOO MUCH!!
WHAT DO YOU THINK I WAS UP TO WHILE YOU WERE SEALED UP?
I WAS EXPERIMENTING ON COUNTERING YOUR LIGHTNING
WHAT THE HELL!?
POP
BWAHAHA! USELESS


TAA-DAA
LIGHTNING IS ALWAYS ATTRACTED TO THE HIGHEST POINT!!
SO THAT'S WHY I MADE THE HIGHEST ROCK TOWER ON THIS MOUNTAIN!!
DAY AFTER DAY I WAS AWAITING THE MOMENT WHEN WE WOULD MEET AGAIN, AND I PRACTICED FACING OFF AGAINST LIGHTNING...
AND I DISCOVERED A SINGLE PROPERTY
FU FU
.....
BWA HA HA HA
HOW IS IT? YOU SCARED YET?
AHH-- YOUR FUTILE LITTLE SCHEMES ARE EVEN SCARIER
DADDY'S SCHEME
IF I PLACE MY BODY LOWER THAN THIS ROCK TOWER
THE STONE TOWER WILL ABSORB ALL THE LIGHTNING
UH... HARUKA...
!
FIRST WE WOULD NEED TO MAKE THAT DADDY STOP MOVING
THEN WE CAN TAKE OUR TIME AND GO LOOK FOR THE KAPPA.

JUST BE A GOOD BOY AND LISTEN TO WHAT I...
BWAHAHAHA
NO USE RUNNING AWAY!
SHOOP
STING
OUCH!
PA PA PAA!
WHY YOU...
YOU CAN'T DEFEAT ME WITH SUCH A WEAK TECHNIQUE!
PAN PAN
BUT STILL, IT STINGS.
SO STIN IT

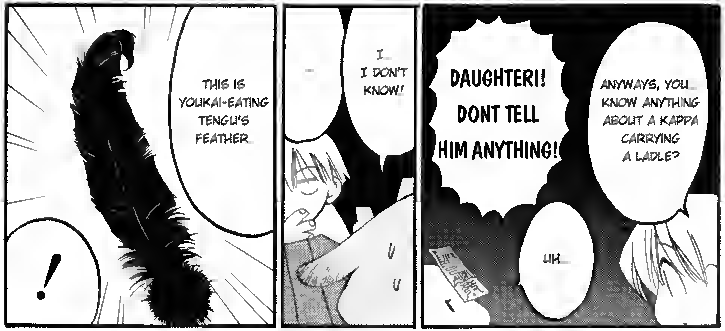
THE ONE I WANT TO FACE
YOSH
YOSH
HMPH! I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOU ANYWAYS


IS YOUI YOUKAI-EATING TENGU!!
SWISH

HARUKA! NOW!!

YOU KNOW
THE LIGHTNING'S CURRENT TENDS TO FLOW MORE FREELY ON THE SURFACE THAN THROUGH THE CENTER
HOW CAN THIS BE?
SLAM
HOW
SWAY
SO FROM NOW ON, WHENEVER LIGHTNING HITS THAT STONE TOWER, IT WOULD BE BEST IF YOU MAINTAIN A MINIMUM SAFE DISTANCE OF AT LEAST TWO METERS
OKAY?♡
IT SEEMS THAT HARUKA DOESN'T WANT IT, SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST GIVE IT UP?
BOTH OF YOU!
SHOOP
FURTHERMORE, YOU CAN'T FORCE SOMEONE TO MARRY
THE INDIVIDUAL'S FREE WILL IS WHAT'S IMPORTANT

YOU'RE SUCH A HEARTLESS MASTER.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST MARRY HER?
I FEEL SORRY FOR HER, FOR SOME REASON.
SNIFF
I DON'T WANNA!!
I DON'T WANT TO!!

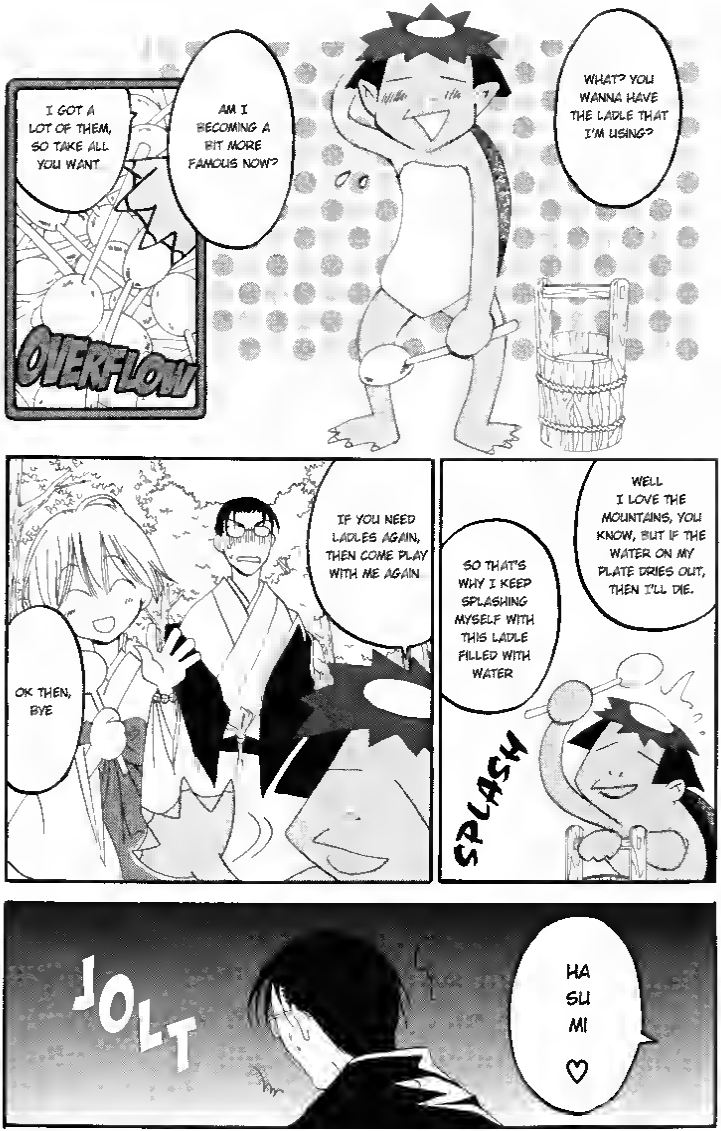

THIS IS YOUKAI-EATING TENGU'S FEATHER.
!
I... I DON'T KNOW!
U U
DAUGHTER! DON'T TELL HIM ANYTHING!
ANYWAYS, YOU... KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT A KAPPA CARRYING A LADLE?
UH...

WANT IT?
AWAWA
THIS IS AN AWESOME ITEM THAT MAKES THE YOUKAI-EATING TENGU APPEAR IN FRONT OF YOU WHENEVER YOU TALK TO IT

UHHMM, DADDY! WITH THIS, I CAN SEE YOUKAI-EATING TENGU WHENEVER I WANT
DAUGHTER... YOU'VE BEEN TRICKED....
HERE SO THIS IS WHERE THE KAPPA LIVES
RUSTLE
NOW...
FUCK NO
I'M SORRY ABOUT TRICKING THAT LITTLE KID... HARUKA, PLEASE GO AND SEE HER FROM TIME TO TIME

I WAS WAITING FOR YOU, HASUMI.
I'LL SHOW YOU A KAPPA.
ICHINO-MIYA
SHUT UP! THIS IS MERELY THE PLACE WHERE THE LEGEND OF THE KAPPA HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN AND THE LADLE IS KEPT ENSHRINED. ALRIGHT!?
POW
ARGH!
EHEHEE
I SAID THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A KAPPA!
POW!
I SAID THE KAPPA CARRYING THE LADLE LIVES HERE!
UH!?
KAPPA!
KAPPA!
POW
POW
AH.
LADLE!
LADLE!
POW
WOW

YOU GUYS?
WHO ARE


WHAT? YOU WANNA HAVE THE LADLE THAT I'M USING?
AM I BECOMING A BIT MORE FAMOUS NOW?
I GOT A LOT OF THEM, SO TAKE ALL YOU WANT
OVERFLOW
WELL I LOVE THE MOUNTAINS, YOU KNOW, BUT IF THE WATER ON MY PLATE DRIES OUT, THEN I'LL DIE.
SO THAT'S WHY I KEEP SPLASHING MYSELF WITH THIS LADLE FILLED WITH WATER
SPLASH
IF YOU NEED LADLES AGAIN, THEN COME PLAY WITH ME AGAIN
OK THEN, BYE
JOLT
HA SU MI ♡

HOW DO YOU FEEL AFTER
FINALLY SEEING A YOUKAI?
SO YOU REALLY GOT THE KAPPA'S LADLE FOR ME AS EXPECTED OF MY BEST STUDENTS

HONESTLY, I BELIEVE THAT HASUMI'S INTERPRETATION IS THE CORRECT METHOD IN CONDUCTING YOUKAI RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF TRADITIONAL STUDIES.
BUT STILL, I WAS ELATED WITH THINKING THAT YOUKAIS MIGHT EXIST IN THE WORLD, AND FURTHER, I COULDN'T HELP BUT IMMENSELY ENJOY RESEARCHING SAYINGS AND PASSAGES
I WANTED TO SEE A KAPPA WITH MY OWN EYES TOO...
KANTARO! YOU GOT A GUEST
WHO IS IT?
OHH. HE MUST BE HERE. I CALLED HIM TO SHOW THIS TO HIM.
NUMATA SENSEI I HEARD YOU FOUND THE KAPPA'S LADLE, SO I RAN OVER HERE AS FAST AS I COULD
AH...
YOU'RE...

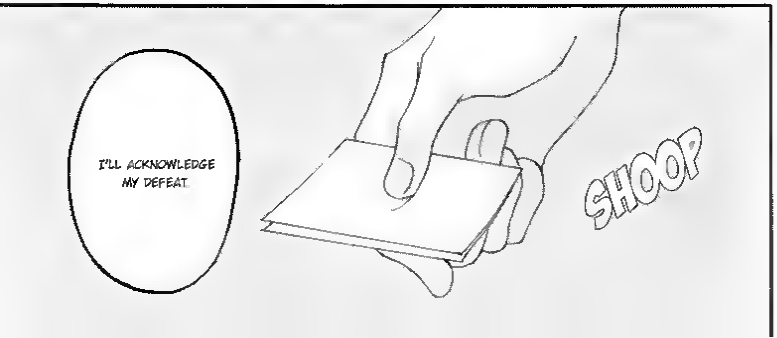
MR. EDWARDS!?
AHH!
MR. KANTARO! SO GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN
JUST WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU GREETING?
SO, NUMATA SENSEI AND MR. EDWARDS, YOU TWO KNEW EACH OTHER?
ICHINOMIYA... THAT GENTLEMAN IS...?
HIS NAME IS MR. EDWARDS AND HE'S A DEMON HUNTER FROM THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND. HE'S ALSO AN INQUISITOR FOR THE PREVENTION OF CHRISTIAN HERESY IN JAPAN.
I OWE A LOT TO NUMATA SENSEI. I'M LEARNING SO MUCH ABOUT JAPAN FROM HIM.
SINCE PART OF MY JOB INVOLVES LEARNING MORE ABOUT JAPAN.

SO THIS IS THE LADLE CARRIED BY A KAPPA... I HEARD THE LADLE HAD POWERS TO CALL FORTH SPIRITS, BUT...
THIS LADLE'S SPIRITUAL POWERS ARE WEAK.
A DEMON HUNTER FROM THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND?
BOW
SENSEI! I APOLOGIZE FOR DOUBTING YOU.
IF YOU ACKNOWLEDGE IT, THEN IT'S FINE HAHAHAHA!
MR EDWARDS YOU SEEM VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE
HE SAID IT WAS ONLY A TOOL TO SPLASH WATER
THAT'S BECAUSE IT WAS ONLY A KAPPA'S BELONGING
ROSALIE'S GONE SHE WAS PLAYING HERE QUIETLY UNTIL JUST A MINUTE AGO
YOUKO! WHAT'S WRONG?
DASH
DASH
WHERE COULD SHE BE?

WHY
IN A PLACE
LIKE THIS
!

BWAHAHA
MAKE SURE YOU KEEP YOUR PROMISE!
I WON THIS BATTLE, RIGHT?
HASUMI
WHAT?

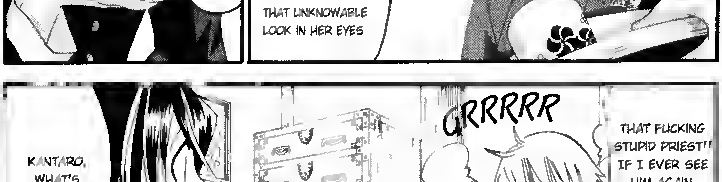
SAY WHAT!? YOU SHAMELSS BASTARD!!
ANYWAYS, SINCE THIS TIME YOU FOUND THE LADLE FIRST...
WHY CAN'T YOU ACKNOWLEDGE IT?
SCRIBBLE
HMPH... I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF TRICKS YOU USED...
BUT I STILL CAN'T ACKNOWLEDGE THE EXISTENCE OF YOUKAIS...


I'LL ACKNOWLEDGE MY DEFEAT...
SHOOP

YIPPEE! HEH HEH HEH... I'LL USE THIS AS A FOUNDATION TO BECOMING A WELL-RESPECTED SCHOLAR!
YESSS!!
SO THAT NO ONE CAN EVER CALL ME AN UNMARKETABLE TRADITIONAL STUDIES SCHOLAR.
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
WHAT THE FUCK!? JUST ONE SENTENCE!?
SHIT!!
I'VE BEEN SWINDLED BY THAT FUCKER, HASUMI!!
I CAN'T USE THIS
...

There is no such thing as a demon hunter in the Church of England.
THEN JUST WHAT IN THE WORLD...
I'M FROM THE ANGLICAN CHURCH AND AS WELL AS BEING A DEMON BUSTER
IS MR. EDWARDS?
I'M ALSO THE DIRECTOR FOR THE PREVENTION OF JAPAN CHRISTIANITY BEING OVERRUN

HUH? WHAT DO I THINK ABOUT ROSALIE? WELL...
I THINK SHE'S A VERY MATURE AND GOOD HEARTED CHILD BUT SOMETIMES I GET THE FEELING THAT SHE'S SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING WITH THAT UNKNOWABLE LOOK IN HER EYES
...OH YEAH?


KANTARO, WHAT'S WRONG?
GRRRRR
HUFF
HUFF
THAT FUCKING STUPID PRIEST!! IF I EVER SEE HIM AGAIN, I'LL..!!

That bastard stole my hakama!
IS HE A MORON?
...HAKAMA MANIAC... HE'S TOTALLY OUT OF HIS MIND....